

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Venezuela

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SUBJECT Friction Within the Junta and Army

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1. For the first time in recent months reports have been received concerning friction among the members of the Venezuelan Military Junta of Government. Source stated that the tension between Lt. Colonel Marcos Perez Jimenez and Lt. Colonel Carlos Delgado Chalbaud has increased to the point where Perez Jimenez is speaking to civilian friends about his differences with Delgado Chalbaud.
2. Lt. Colonel Luis Felipe Llovera Paez, Minister of Internal Affairs and the third member of the Junta triumvirate, until recently has been above reproach as far as his conduct was concerned. However, he was involved in an argument on the evening of 28 or 29 September 1950 with an unidentified Army officer during a party being given by an official of the Instituto Nacional de Obras Sanitarias in Caracas. The argument progressed to a point at which guns were drawn. The cause of the argument was not known.
3. Lt. Colonel Roberto Casanova, former Commandant of the Zulia area, reportedly has again offered his resignation from the Army. He allegedly is still dissatisfied with the continuance of Delgado Chalbaud as a Junta member. According to source, Casanova was assigned to the arms purchasing mission in Europe with the hope that the trip would forestall his resignation.

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Comment. According to the Santiago press of 11 October 1950, Casanova and Lt. Rafael Trujillo were arrested in Copenhagen by the Danish police as the result of security measures taken in connection with the proposed visit to that country of Winston Churchill. The police ordered their arrest after finding four suitcases full of weapons in their possession.

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